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Active Adult Community Launches Largo Senior Living Development Opens as Prince George's County Demographics Shift

By ANNE A. ABRAHAM
Watermark

Toni Harris looks forward to walking to work and living nearer her adult children. Edward Baylor likes having ready access to a continuum of care and being closer to his grown kids, too. As Prince George's County's older adult demographic grows, Harris and Baylor represent reasons a new 55-plus active adult community near Largo's The Carillon mixed-use development is quickly filling. Called The Arch, it is scheduled to

open May 1 at 360 Sky Bridge Drive, Largo, Maryland.

The Arch is the first stage of The Sky Bridge at Town Center. The second phase, an adjacent senior living community called The Parc, is slated to open in spring of next year. The Sky Bridge at Town Center is operated by Arizona-based Watermark Retirement Communities, which already manages three other senior living communities in the greater Washington, D.C. — Baltimore area.

The Arch offers 64 studio,

one- and two-bedroom apartments, up to 1,150 square feet in size, in two four-story connected buildings. The residences feature tall windows, roomy balconies, modern kitchens with upgraded energy-efficient appliances and islands with sinks, and many other upscale touches.

Social engagement is a focus for The Arch, which will have a residents association that chooses community activities. Amenities including a rooftop deck, a club room and a gym are designed to bring people together and build

friendships. The Arch is within walking distance of The Carillon, the outdoor mix of retail, dining, entertainment, apartments and offices. It is also on the footpath to the Largo Town Center Metro Station.

All of these elements appeal to Harris, a medical office receptionist whose job is being relocated nearby. "It is easy, safe and convenient to walk to work, stores and shopping," said Harris, 59. "The apartments are spacious."

The Sky Bridge at Town Center's second phase, called The Parc, will be a 62-plus retirement community offering 218 independent living, assisted living and memory care studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments. When it opens next year, many of its amenities will be available to residents of The Arch. They include multiple dining venues, wellness and fitness centers and a spa.

Having The Parc next door appeals to Baylor, an 80-year-old retired military and government employee. The Arch's active adult lifestyle well suits Baylor and his wife



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY GOLDMAN & ASSOCIATES PUBLIC RELATIONS

Rendering of The Sky Bridge at Town Center, the Arch Outside Courtyard

See SENIOR Page A5

Father-focused Program, A Father's Place, Prince George's County, Aims to Strengthen Local Children and Families

By PATRICIA STRONG
A Father's Place

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (April 18, 2021)—A new federally-funded program, A Father's Place, Prince George's County (AFPPGC), launched Monday to provide high-impact services to local fathers. AFPPGC aims to support, enhance, and advance responsible fatherhood throughout the County.

"There are many programs in Prince George's for mothers, but there are very few for fathers," says Geneva Ware-Rice, Program Director for AFPPGC. "We have the opportunity to bring a program that is designed especially for fathers so that they may engage in a more productive way with their children, their spouse or co-parent, their families, their jobs, and the community."

The program's mission is to promote fathers as the essential component to building stronger children, families, communities, and society. According to Ware-Rice, AFPPGC's vision is that fathers are up-lifted, barriers are removed, families are restored, and communities are transformed.

"Fathers play a significant role in the lives and the wellbeing of their children," says Program Manager, Silverio Jimenez-Staton. "We know that fatherhood is a journey, and our program provides the tools, knowledge, and resources needed for fathers to strengthen their relationships, learn new parenting

skills, and become financially and economically mobile."

In addition to skill-based virtual classes, the program offers personal coaching and resource referrals. Participants will also have the opportunity to network with other dads to build a community of support. AFPPGC specifically serves fathers living in Prince George's County, as well as those who live elsewhere but have an active child support case in the County. AFPPGC is open to fathers who are 18 years of age or older. Programming is focused on fathers with children 18 years of age or younger to impact families with children at earlier generations and help set the stage for further growth and development.

"All of what we do and why we are here is so that we can provide for our children," says Ware-Rice. "They deserve it, and in the long run, it's better for all of us."

More information can be found on the program's website: www.afppgc.org.

AFPPGC is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. The services are available to all eligible persons, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, or religion.

Like AFPPGC on Facebook, find it on LinkedIn, follow it on Instagram and sign up for AFPPGC email updates at www.afppgc.org.

Number of Civilian Gun Applications Approved in Maryland Increases

By JACOB STEINBERG
Capital News Service

From 2019 to 2020, the number of approved applications for Maryland civilians licensed to buy or own a regulated firearm more than doubled, according to data obtained from a public records request.

In 2019, 47,093 total requests were approved for civilians in the state, while that number rose to 95,502 in 2020, marking a substantial increase.

"If you look at the numbers over time you can see how dramatic the rise has been with a big spike this last year," Mark Pennak, president of Maryland Shall Issue told Capital News Service.

"It exceeds the population growth of Maryland substantially," he added.

A regulated firearm is considered a handgun, but a lower receiver—the part of a rifle that is serialized—is also regulated.

To put in an application and affidavit to own or buy a regulated firearm, an individual must apply through the Maryland State Police's Licensing Portal.

However, before applying through the Maryland State Police licensing portal, an individual must obtain a Handgun Qualification License.

To do that, they must first go through a fingerprint-based background check as well as satisfactorily complete a Firearms Safety Course that is taught by a certified instructor and spans at least four hours.

The course needs to be completed within three years prior to the application for the Handgun Qualification Course.

If the request is approved, the individual can then go about acquiring the firearm.

Based on the data from the Maryland State Police, the number of civilian applications approved increased in all 24 jurisdictions.

These civilian applications apply to the purchase of a handgun, as rifles and shotguns aren't considered regulated firearms in Maryland.

Baltimore County saw the largest number of approved applications in 2020 with 13,048, while Prince George's County and Anne Arundel County had the second and third largest number granted at 11,991 and 11,406 respectively.

When looking at the percentage change from 2019–2020,

Prince George's County saw the largest change with a 163.6 percent increase, while Charles County saw the second largest increase at 112.6 percent.

Each of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions saw a greater than 50 percent increase when looking at the number of applications granted from 2019 to 2020.

Beyond personal safety, there are several factors that have contributed to this increase, including the election of new Democratic President Joe Biden as well as the increased number of protests in the last year surrounding police brutality.

"President Biden has come out with a very strong gun-control agenda, we used to joke that President Obama was the greatest gun salesman ever to exist, but I think now President Biden has taken the honors," Pennak said.

"If anything, that has encouraged people to buy firearms be-

cause they're concerned that these new restrictions will be imposed," he added.

A study conducted by the National Shooting Sports Foundation from January to April 2020 found that retailers cited an increase in first-time gun buyers, estimating that 40 percent of their sales were to this group.

Additionally, the study found, that marked a 67 percent increase compared to years past, where about 24 percent of customers were first-time gun owners.

In 2020, nearly 23 million firearms were bought, an estimate that represented a 64 percent increase from the year prior, according to the Washington Post, which based its numbers on methodology from the Small Arms Survey.

Additionally, more than 2 million firearms were bought in January, according to the Washington Post, which gathered federal background-check data.

"The stereotypical demographic you'd expect has changed, age, gender, race it does not matter," Jonathan Bennett, owner of United Gun Shop in Rockville, Maryland, told Capital News Service.

Bennett is a retired law enforcement officer of 15 years and teaches firearms training and safety courses.

In the last 12 to 14 months, he's seen a 400 percent enrollment increase in these courses, with 75 percent of the class as first-time gun owners.

"There are a lot more people coming out openly as first-time gun buyers," Bennett said.

However, Bennett explained that while some first-time gun owners attributed their purchases to civil unrest, many people are unable to articulate what they're feeling.

This increase in approved applications and first-time gun own-

ers doesn't come as a surprise to gun control advocacy organizations like Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence, but it has brought added concerns.

It's also brought an added reminder to what they perceive as a false narrative from many gun rights advocates that guns in the homes make you feel safer, according to Liz Banach, executive director of Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence.

One of the main concerns with increased gun ownership relates to mental health and the increased stress and anxiety level people are dealing with.

An American Psychological Association poll of 2,076 adults from Jan. 21 to Jan. 25 found that the pandemic was a significant source of stress for 80 percent of them.

See GUN APPLICATIONS Page A4

Md. counties with the most approved civilian regulated firearm applications

Below are the five counties in Maryland with the highest number of approved civilian applications to own/buy a regulated firearm in 2020.

Baltimore County	13,048
Prince George's County	11,991
Anne Arundel County	11,406
Montgomery County	9,177
Harford County	6,471

Chart: Jacob Steinberg/Capital News Service • Source: Maryland State Police • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

Maryland counties with largest percent increase in approved civilian regulated firearm applications

Below are the five counties in Maryland that saw the greatest percentage increase from 2019 to 2020 in approved civilian applications to buy or own a regulated firearm.

	2019 Applications Approved	2020 Applications Approved	Percent Change
Prince George's County	4,549	11,991	163.6
Charles County	2,152	4,575	112.6
Garrett County	264	555	110.2
Calvert County	1,282	2,664	107.8
Washington County	1,720	3,560	107

Chart: Jacob Steinberg/Capital News Service • Source: Maryland State Police • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

INSIDE

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• **After 10,000+ Masks, Route 1 Mask Match Slows Effort:** With face masks widely available and vaccination rates increasing in Prince George's County's Route 1 corridor, volunteer mask making effort sets May 31 end date

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• **Health Department Launches COVID-19 Vaccine Locator on County Vaccine Website**

"... we want to ensure everyone can easily find where they can get these life-saving doses as quickly as possible," said Prince George's County Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health, Human Services, and Education Dr. George L. Askew.

Community, Page A3

• **To Be Equal:**

Chauvin Conviction Marks a Turning Point on Police Accountability, But Work Remains if the Nation Is to Achieve Real Justice

If we expect the conviction of Derek Chauvin to stand as a "1965 moment," Congress must pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

Commentary, Page A4

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Would Dr. Chiaramonte recognize the hospital he founded?

On April 8, 2021, MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital welcomed patients into their expanded and renovated front entrance and new Emergency Department. This has been the hospital's largest renovation and expansion project in its history.

Francis P. Chiaramonte, a prominent urologist in the Washington area, founded Southern Maryland Hospital Center in 1977. The 300-bed hospital quickly became the largest private medical facility and one of the largest private employers in the region.

In 2007, Dr. Chiaramonte was succeeded as hospital president by his son. However, the founder remained chairman of the board until 2012, when MedStar purchased Southern Maryland Hospital.

And now, when you visit his hospital, here's some of what you'll find: 50% more treatment rooms, two large trauma & resuscitation rooms built to hold more equipment, on-site imaging technology for faster, more convenient testing, dedicated behavioral health space, larger rooms to more comfortably accommodate visitors, modern reception areas, and (you'll love this!) a 24-hour café.

Dr. Francis Chiaramonte died 8 years ago on May 19, 2013 at his home in Camp Springs.

Town of Morningside

Morning Chief of Police Amos Damron is retiring after many years with the Town. More about the chief in next week's column.

Morningsiders go to the polls May 3 to fill two Town Council Seats. The polls will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Morningside Municipal Center.

Morningside Administrative Offices will be closed Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.

Neighbors & other good people

Donald Young, of Camp Springs, turns 99 on May 5. Daughter Donna says no big party is planned this year but I suggest a birthday prayer for this very special man. I'll have more about his interesting life in next week's column.

Tom Ferrell emailed—re the 1958 election I had in last week's column—that he remembered his dad running in one of those early elections. I checked, and yes, Jack D. Ferrell served on the Morningside Town Council 1952–53. Tom also remembered his dad helped the Morningside Police De-

partment get started. "I remember seeing his badge and gun," Tom wrote. The Ferrells lived on Larkspur Road and later moved to Reamy Drive in Skyline.

Father Michael Briese, of the Washington Archdiocese, has been assigned to special ministry to the poor in Southern Maryland. He'll be in residence at St. Mary's Parish, Piscataway.

My grandson Conor McHale had his 2nd shot last week. So, all the local McHale family adults are fully vaccinated. It'll give me peace of mind when I host the next crab feast in my backyard.

Graduates

Meghan Nyers, daughter of Larry and Jody Bowman Nyers, graduates May 9 from The Citadel in Charleston S.C. with a bachelor's in nursing (BSN) and will continue her education to earn her Nurse Practitioner (NP). She has been in the medical field since becoming an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) at age 16 in Waldorf.

Email me (muddmm@aol.com) with news of the graduates in your family.

Changing landscape

The D.C. statehood bill passed the House on April 22 with overwhelming Democratic support, setting up an historic showdown coming up in the Senate.

Reagan National Airport has unveiled a much-anticipated concourse marking the end of operations at the much-maligned Gate 35X. (The shuttle buses will be relocated to Philadelphia. The air stairs are no more.) Among the destinations the concourse will serve: Albany, Cleveland, Charleston, W.Va., and Raleigh-Durham.

The Post says "Mall Department Stores Face Extinction," which I bemoaned in a recent column. Some of those shuttered stores have become coronavirus vaccination centers, community colleges, medical offices, car dealerships and Amazon warehouses.

We're into Washington's pollen season. The Post reports, "Oaks are a driver because they make up a huge portion of trees in the area: 47 percent of the annual tree pollen can be attributed to oaks..."

A Morningside home at 6612 Woodland Rd. just sold for \$305,000.

Mary's COVID report: 13 more have died

There have been 438,789 cases of coronavirus in Maryland. Of them, 1,205 were on the last day (Wednesday, April 21, by 5 p.m.). And a total of 8,605 deaths, 13 of

which were the day before. It's not going away!

American University and Georgetown are now requiring all students to have had their shots.

Requiescat in pace (May they rest in Peace)

- Jane Martin Talbert, 96, of Suitland, wife of Edward James Talbert, died Dec. 29, 2020. She'll be buried at Arlington with her husband, a Tuskegee Airman who died in December 2019. They were married 70 years. Survivors include their daughter Patricia and husband Christopher Smith, and a granddaughter. Services were April 24 at Allen Chapel AME Church.
- Peter J. McGuire, 74, of Clinton, who worked at the Pentagon with the Joint Chiefs of Staff until 2011, died April 16. He was a native of Lynn, Mass, and served in the Air Force, retiring as M/Sgt. Services were at Lee's in Clinton.
- Paul Edward Thoman, 97, of Temple Hills, who worked for the Veterans Administration and GSA, retiring in 1981, died Jan. 31. He grew up in York, Pa., served as a Medic in the 101st Airborne during WWII and was severely wounded in France. He earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering at New Mexico A&M. Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Nancy, three sons and grandchildren. The Thomans were members of Corkran Memorial UMC.
- Carol Marie Dougherty Freeland, 75, of Northern Virginia, who was Miss Prince George's Junior College in 1961, Ms. Knoxville in 1967, and runner-up to Miss Tennessee in 1967, died Nov. 21, 2020. A Washington Native, she graduated from Northwestern HS and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she met her husband. She worked as a Marketing Sales Rep for AT&T and taught elementary school. Survivors include her husband of 53 years, Thomas Wayne Freeland, four sons and two granddaughters.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Kathryn Deaver, May 1; Ann Lacey, Ernestine Taylor Wood and Dante Ross Jr., May 2; Janet Booth Kaye, my daughter Sheila (McHale) Mudd and Lori Williams, May 3; India Goodall and Rubi Haines, May 4; Donald Young and Jim Henderson, May 5; Gretchen Ennis, May 6; and Dwight "Chipper" Holloway Jr., May 7.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

DOROTHEA BELT STROMAN

Dorothea Joanne Belt Stroman is the third offspring born to the late Dorothy & Joseph H. Belt, Jr. She is the proud mother of one son, William Stroman, III; the mother-in-law of Quivianna Davis Stroman; the doting grandmother of a granddaughter, Madison Rae Stroman and a grandson, William Boyd Stroman IV; and the adopted grandmother of Anthony G. Davis.

Her educational experience includes a B.S. Degree in Home Economics, Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland, 1973. Master of Divinity Degree, Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, DC, 1986. Certificate of Training in Clinical Pastoral Education, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC.

Her ministerial accomplishments are ordained a Deacon in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, 1986. Ordained an Elder in the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference, 1988.

Rev. Stroman's pastoral experience includes student intern at Emory UMC, 1982–1986. Associate Pastor, Simpson-Hamline UMC Church, Washington, DC, 1986. Associate Pastor, Foundry UMC Church, Washington, DC, 1988. Senior Pastor, Albright UMC Church, Washington, DC, 1991. Senior Pastor, Clinton UMC Church, Clinton, MD, 2004 to the present time.

Pastor Stroman has taught several courses: Basic Lay Speaking, Advanced Lay Speaking, Lay Pastoral Caregiving, Preaching: "From Your Heart to Theirs"; and "Leading Worship" for at least 20 years, beginning in the Washington-Columbia District, and now for the Washington East District.

In addition, Pastor Stroman has received several citations from Prince George's County government officials, the State of Maryland government officials, Heartland Hospice, and the Prince George's County Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).

Pastor Stroman has served on the Washington-Columbia District Committee on the Superintendent and the Committee on Ordained Ministry. Also, she served on the Baltimore-Washington Conference Committee on Disabilities. Currently, she serves as a Mentor for the Candidacy Process for those exploring Ordained Ministry.

Pastor Stroman is a contributor in The Women of Color Study Bible, 1993. An excerpt from a sermon titled, The Potter Shapes Our Lives, Turning Flaws into Strengths, appeared in the Washington Times, February 14, 2000. She is currently the published author of a Christian fiction title, "The First Man".

Pastor Stroman is a member of Zeta Phi Sorority, Inc. Alpha Zeta Chapter, Baltimore, Maryland. During the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Centennial, celebrated January 2020, Rev. Stroman was one of the recipients of The Zeta 100 Award for Religion, which recognizes career accomplishments, leadership, and dedica-

tion to their field. Rev. Stroman received recognition in the field of Religion during the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Alpha Zeta Chapter Finer Womanhood Awards Ceremony held March 3, 2021.

Her favorite scripture is Mark 11:24, "Whatever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them."

PASTOR STROMAN SPEECH AT THE FINER WOMANHOOD AWARDS CEREMONY

Good Morning, I greet you in the name of Jesus, the Risen Christ, Greetings to my Sorors of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, INC.; My Sorors of Alpha Zeta Chapter; to my family and friends, and all others who are watching this ceremony virtually. Thank you for your attendance.

A word of thanks to the 25th International President of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Valerie Hollingsworth Baker; our president of Alpha Zeta Chapter, Soror Josalyn Bryant; and the co-chairs of this Finer Womanhood Awards Ceremony, Sorors Courtney Spain Sowah and Pat Davis for your leadership.

What a joy it is to be one of the honorees, along with my sister, Cynthia Gipson for this finer Womanhood Awards Ceremony. I am truly honored and appreciative. Without a doubt, I stand on the shoulders of those who have received these awards in the past.

When I was inducted as an undergrad into Gamma Chapter on the campus of Morgan State University on April 21, 1971, I wanted, one day to be a member of Alpha Zeta Chapter, so here I am. To my Sorors, I join you in saying that we have been finer since January 16, 1920!!! Submitted by Pastor Dorothea Joanne Belt Stroman.

"Congratulations Pastor Stroman on your accomplishments. Thanks to my wonderful, amazing Pastor for submitting this information to me." Audrey Johnson.

CELEBRATING BSU LEGACY FAMILIES

April 14, 2021, Facebook's "Live at 5" virtual alumni house welcomed the Bowlding Family that is part of the rich history of Bowie State University. This was an evening for a conversation with this amazing family as we continued to embrace our university's foundation.

BSU FOUNDER DAY 2021

Faculty, staff, students, and alumni were invited to view Bowie State University's first-ever virtual Founders Day which was held April 14, 2021. We reflected on the university's rich legacy as Maryland's first historically black university and what it means to be #BSU4 Life.

Around the County

Oxon Hill Safeway Is Set for Ribbon-Cutting

Prince George's County grocery store celebrates major renovations—Friday, April 30

LANHAM, Md. (April 20, 2021)—Safeway will unveil renovations to its Oxon Hill, Maryland store at 6235 Oxon Hill Road in Prince George's County, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, April 30 at 10 a.m. Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and Councilmember Monique Anderson-Walker are expected to join Safeway leaders and store staff for a socially-distanced celebration, which will also include live music, free gifts, and refreshments.

"We are pleased to present renovations throughout the store that will enhance the grocery shopping experience for our Oxon Hill neighbors" said Safeway President Jim Perkins. "We have added new features and expanded our selections in multiple departments."

Stewart Jones is the Store Director for the Oxon Hill Safeway, which offers many enhancements, including new flooring, all new checkstands, updated décor featuring new neighborhood photos and new signage, as well as all new shelving, and refrigerated cases. In addition to new cases, the bakery has also added new ovens. While the renovations are primarily on the interior, the Oxon Hill Safeway has also added a new DriveUp and Go (DUG) service for easy grocery pickup.

The Oxon Hill Safeway deli department has expanded its selection of ready-to-go prepared meals, as well as its overall offerings, including an increased variety of pre-sliced meats and cheese items.

The new Safeway fresh meat case offers an expanded variety and a new display for packaged meat, as well as a new butcher block case for full-service meat.

Safeway's seafood department now features a new full-service fresh seafood case, a frozen crab case, and a new refrigerated grab & go seafood case with shrimp bowls, crab meat, smoked fish, and many more seafood solutions.

The Oxon Hill Safeway produce department now showcases over 150 organic items, as well as an expanded selection of fresh cut-in-store fruits and vegetables. The juice selection has grown to feature over 100 different varieties of premium juices and beverages, including Kombucha, specialty juices and shots, with additional healthy alternative and soy offerings.

The bakery department now offers an expanded array of fresh baked-in-store items, with a full line of new cake designs, as well as increased offerings for fresh bread, bagels and rolls.

Safeway's Oxon Hill floral department has expanded its home décor section featuring debi lilly glassware, fragrance and home goods that are trendy and affordable for both home and gifting.

With this remodel, Safeway's Oxon Hill store has added new specialty items across grocery, dairy and frozen foods. The store has also added more than 250 new Hispanic products, including Central American, Caribbean, and South American offerings.

Traditional Safeway features include a full-service pharmacy, deli, bakery, floral, meat, seafood, and produce departments. The store also offers busy shoppers time-saving amenities including Safeway.com delivery and Drive-up-and-Go services, as well as Instacart RUSH delivery service. The Oxon Hill Safeway operates from 6 am until midnight seven days a week.

Safeway has a long and proud history of being a supportive member of the communities it serves. As part of the ribbon-cutting celebration, Safeway will present donations to two local community organizations: the Oxon Hill Food Pantry and the Forest Heights Oxon Hill Community Development Corporation.

—Kerry Lynn Bohlen, for Safeway

After 10,000+ Masks, Route 1 Mask Match Slows Effort

With face masks widely available and vaccination rates increasing in Prince George's County's Route 1 corridor, volunteer mask making effort sets May 31 end date

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (April 20, 2021)—After a year of working to encourage the sewing of cloth face masks to help keep vulnerable people in the Route 1 corridor safe from COVID-19, Route 1 Mask Match (R1MM) is winding down its efforts by May 31, 2021.

R1MM began in April 2020 as an emergency effort to address the critical shortage of masks for local community members in need. In a little more than a year, Mask Match volunteers have sewn and distributed more than 10,000 cloth masks for neighbors with the most urgent needs: elders, people with chronic health conditions, those experiencing homelessness, and community members in economic crisis. Thanks to a generous donation from the Do Good Institute at The University of Maryland, Route 1 Mask Match also has 14,000 disposable masks to distribute.

Unlike when R1MM launched, all kinds of masks are readily available today, and vaccinations are increasing. "We urge all our neighbors to continue to wear masks and get vaccinated, but it's time for our emergency effort to wind down," said Laura Usher, one of the coordinators for R1MM. "We appreciate the hard work and nimble needles of all of our sewists, and the partnership of numerous community organizations."

R1MM will stop accepting mask donations on May 31. Partner organizations should reach out before then to request cloth masks or disposable masks. R1MM is no longer accepting donations of fabric and sewing supplies, but supplies are still available for those looking to continue making masks.

"Although we are slowing down our effort, R1MM is having one last mask challenge. Help us build up a supply of adult masks, preferably in neutral colors, for our partners. We have plenty of supplies still available for your sewing needs," said Usher.

"We are so grateful for the support of all our Route 1 volunteers who both donated masks and helped distribute them. We also would like to thank the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation for its support, and the Do Good Institute and Hyattsville Aging in Place for their grants."

For more information about the project, including information about making masks or to request a mask, visit www.Route1MaskMatch.org and follow Route 1 Mask Match on Facebook.

—T. Carter Ross, Route1MaskMatch

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Pet Loss and Yoga Workshops Added to Spring Grief Support Calendar

PASADENA, Md. (April 9, 2021)—Chesapeake Life Center recently added two telehealth offerings to its spring program calendar to help grievers in the community work through their loss.

The first is a Pet Loss Virtual Workshop, sponsored by Perfect Pet Resort and held from 6 to 8 p.m. **May 4**. Adults who are mourning the loss of a beloved animal friend can participate in this interactive online workshop that includes a time to share individual stories, an introduction to the grief process, an art activity to honor your beloved pet, brainstorming and suggestions for healthy coping. The workshop is free, but people must register online at <http://bit.ly/pet-loss-workshop>.

Nurturing the Grieving Heart through Yoga returns for adult grievers as a four-week program that will meet online from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, **June 2 to 23**, facilitated by Cathy Rees, a registered nurse and certified yoga instructor with the Yoga Center of Columbia, participants remember their loved ones with more love than pain through targeted breathwork, very gentle movement and guided meditation. No yoga experience is necessary. The yoga can be practiced seated on a chair or from a mat on the floor.

The cost is \$40 for the four weeks. Registration is required and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakecenter.org. For details on telehealth bereavement services, visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/clc-covid-19. Visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/events for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

—Elizabeth Marcussen, Hospice of the Chesapeake

City of Bowie Hosts Young Adult Job Fair On Thursday, May 6

The City of Bowie is hosting a virtual community employment fair for teens and young adults, ages 16 to 24, on Thursday, **May 6**, 2021 from 6 to 8 p.m. The goal of this job fair is to connect local employers with young adults seeking employment.

This year, due to the pandemic, the city is holding several smaller virtual job fairs rather than one large in-person event. Confirmed participants for the May 6 session include Maryland Transportation Authority Police, Prince George's County Department of Corrections, Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Wegmans, Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department, ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC, United Medical Center, and American Pool.

Those interested in attending this free virtual event should pre-register on the website. Space is limited to the first 200 registrants; please do not wait until the last minute to sign up. The registration link and more job information can be found at www.cityofbowie.org/jobfair.

For more information about the free Community Young Adult Employment Fair, contact JobFair@cityofbowie.org or call 513-817-3158.

—Una Cooper, City of Bowie

NARFE Virtual Fair Announcement

Chapter 1747, the Bowie Crofton chapter of NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association) is planning to hold a virtual NARFE Fair on Saturday, **June 5** from 10 a.m. to noon. The purpose of the Fair is to recruit active Federal employees and retirees for NARFE and Chapter 1747. Congressman Anthony Brown will speak at the Fair on contributions of Federal employees to the nation and Maryland. Other speakers will talk on how NARFE protects your rights and benefits in Congress and how you can get answers to your Federal benefit questions through NARFE. We hope that you can join us at the Fair to learn more about NARFE. Please register for the Fair by sending an email to flee0716@verizon.net with your name and phone number or by calling 410-672-5065. We hope to see you at the Fair.

—Frank Lee, NARFE

Dine
Prince Georges

VOTE for your favorite **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY** restaurant to help them win **CASH** Prizes.

Voting starts at on Monday, March 15th at PGCEDC.com/DinePrinceGeorges

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Health Department Launches COVID-19 Vaccine Locator on County Vaccine Website

Residents are encouraged to use new interactive map to search for vaccination sites in Prince George's County and sign up for appointments

By GEORGE LETTIS
Prince George's County Health Department

LARGO, Md. (April 23, 2021)—A COVID-19 vaccination clinic search tool is now live on Prince George's County's vaccine website, mypgc.us/COVIDvaccine. The interactive map allows users to search for vaccination clinics located in the County that are operated by the County Health Department, the State of Maryland, hospitals, and pharmacies.

Users can browse through the results and select a provider to retrieve more information about that clinic and where to sign up for an appointment.

"Now that every person 16 and older who

lives or works in the County can get vaccinated and more clinics are opening up, we want to ensure everyone can easily find where they can get these life-saving doses as quickly as possible," said Prince George's County Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health, Human Services, and Education Dr. George L. Askew. "Protecting yourself and each other by getting vaccinated, wearing a mask, avoiding gatherings, avoiding travel, and staying six feet apart from people you don't live with will help us end the COVID-19 pandemic."

The vaccine locator allows users to search for clinics within a 20-mile radius using an address, a zip code, or a place name. Each

clinic is denoted on the map as a color-coded icon based upon type of site or the group operating the site. A clinic's information box includes a link or a phone number to sign up for vaccination appointments. A link to Maryland's statewide vaccine clinic locator is found at the bottom of the clinic search results list.

For more information about the County's vaccination operations and where and how to get vaccinated at other clinics across Maryland, please visit our COVID-19 vaccine webpage, health.mypgc.us/COVIDvaccine. You can also subscribe to County Executive Angela Alsobrooks' weekly COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin.

Writing Competition Announced by M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County

By ANGEL WALDRON
Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (April 23, 2021)—Montpelier Arts Center, part of The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, is seeking original and unpublished submissions for All Our Various Voices, an anthology celebrating the rich diversity of personal or family stories of immigration. Tell us your stories in poetry or prose. Montpelier Poet-in-residence, Dr. Karen Arnold, will award prizes to be announced at the public reading in October 2021. Awards will be given for First Place (\$200), Second Place (\$150), Third Place (\$100) and two Honorable Mentions (\$50 each).

Application requirements
There is no entry fee for this competition. All submissions must be submitted online at www.montpelierartscenter.submit-table.com by Friday, **May 7, 2021**. Submit

up to three poems of no more than 75 lines each in a single document or one essay/prose based on personal experiences or family histories, limited to 1,200 words. Entries should be double spaced and in word document format. Simultaneous submissions are permitted, but notify us promptly if your work is accepted elsewhere. Writers must be 18 years of age or older and reside in Maryland, Virginia, or the District of Columbia.

Schedule of important dates
Submission Deadline: Friday, May 7, 2021

Notification of Results: Wednesday, August 4, 2021

Public Reading: October 24, 2021
For information, please call 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544 or send an email to montpelierarts@pgparks.com.

Montpelier Arts Center is a facility of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Plan-

ning Commission, Department of Parks & Recreation, Prince George's County, Arts & Cultural Heritage Division. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. The Department of Parks & Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.

The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George's County. Visit www.pgparks.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, PhotoShelter, and Instagram.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School Students Win Local Envirothon Competition

By DONNELL RICHARDSON
PGSCD

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (April 23, 2021)—Today the Prince George's Soil Conservation District (PGSCD) announced that Eleanor Roosevelt High School won first-place honors at this year's Prince George's County Envirothon. Laurel High School had a good showing at this year's competition coming in second place. The Prince George's Soil Conservation District and William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center hosted the 2021 Prince George's County Envirothon virtually on April 21. Nine teams of Prince George's County Public High School students were tested in four different areas: aquatics, forestry, soils,

and wildlife. Participating schools included Duval, Eleanor Roosevelt, Fairmont Heights, Laurel, Oxon Hill and Potomac high schools.

"We are so proud of our students who competed in the 2021 Prince George's County Envirothon. A special congratulations to the winning team from Eleanor Roosevelt High School and the runners-up from Laurel High School," said Steven E. Darcey-CPESC, PGSCD's District Manager. "This program would not be a success without the hard work and dedication of the local Envirothon coordinators, teachers, and sponsors! Thank you to everyone involved. Let's go win the Maryland State Envirothon!"

Traditionally, this competition

combines "hands-on" experience, testing, and teamwork at the Schmidt Center; it is designed to challenge and prepare the winning team for the Maryland Envirothon. This year, Prince George's County was the only Maryland jurisdiction to host a virtual local competition. The State competition will be held on a virtual platform developed by the University of Maryland from April 26–29. Because counties didn't host local competitions, Maryland Envirothon opened this year's event to all teams from around the State interested in participating in this rigorous competition. The State Envirothon champions will advance to the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon being held virtually from July 25–28.

The District and Schmidt Center worked with partners from the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission's Park and Recreation division and Maryland's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS-MD) to provide training opportunities and resources to teams and their coaches. The Resource Specialists from Parks & Recreation and NRCS-MD meet monthly to develop an interactive virtual training day, competition, review, and awards ceremony to prepare students for the State competition.

The Envirothon concept increases in popularity with more counties and states participating each year. Our goal is to educate as many students and teachers as possible on the importance of conserving our natural resources and, in turn, helping the environment. We are #PrinceGeorges Proud!

2021 Fallen Heroes Day Ceremony To Be Lived-Streamed May 7

Governor Hogan has ordered flags flown at half-staff at the State House and all state facilities. Fallen Hero Corporal Christine Peters of the Greenbelt Police Department to be honored

By PRESS OFFICER
Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens

The 36th annual Fallen Heroes Day observance will be live-streamed 1 p.m. on Friday, May 7, 2021 on the Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/dulaneyvalleymemorialgardens>. While the public will be able to see the ceremony online, family members of those being honored this year will be in attendance. In accordance with State of Maryland and Baltimore County health guidelines, social distancing and mask protocols will be followed.

While the ceremony can be seen in real time on May 7 at 1 p.m. on Dulaney Valley's Facebook page, those who wish to see the ceremony later that day or on another date can view the taped version by going to a link on the Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens website www.dulaneyvalley.com.

Fallen Heroes Day is the only statewide ceremony in the nation that brings together all segments of the public safety community. The observance salutes police, firefighters,

emergency medical and rescue personnel who risk their lives every day to protect the citizens of Maryland.

Because the Fallen Heroes Day ceremony could not be held in 2020 as the pandemic surged throughout the state, a virtual tribute was held last year. This year's observance will honor the first responders lost within the last two years.

[Among the honorees at the 2021 ceremony]:

Corporal Christine Peters of the Greenbelt Police Department in Prince George's County, Maryland, who died on January 14, 2021. The corporal succumbed to injuries sustained 12 days earlier when she was struck by a vehicle while assisting officers from the United States Park Police at the scene of a crash. Corporal Peters was an exceptional officer who served with the Greenbelt Police Department for 22 years and had previously served with the University of Maryland Police Department for five years.

The ceremony will open with a procession of honor guard units from across the state, mounted units, and motorcycle police.

Keeping with tradition, Governor Larry Hogan has issued a proclamation declaring May 7, 2021 as Fallen Heroes Day in Maryland and has ordered flags flown at half-staff at the State House and all state facilities.

During the ceremony, the families of the fallen heroes will be presented with a replica of the Fallen Heroes Memorial and a resolution from the Maryland General Assembly.

The ceremony will conclude with a wreath placement, followed by a 21-gun salute, Taps and a fly-over.

Currently, 73 members of the public safety community are buried at the Fallen Heroes Memorial. Including this year's observance, a total of 191 Fallen Heroes have been honored at the annual ceremony. A list of all fallen heroes honored since the ceremony began 36 years ago can be found at www.dulaneyvalley.com.

Location: The Fallen Heroes Memorial is located within Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens, 200 East Padonia Road, Timonium, MD 21093. For more information: 410-666-0490 or www.dulaneyvalley.com.

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Chauvin Conviction Marks a Turning Point on Police Accountability, But Work Remains if the Nation Is to Achieve Real Justice

"Today, we feel a sigh of relief. Still, it cannot take away the pain. A measure of justice isn't the same as equal justice. This verdict brings us a step closer. And, the fact is, we still have work to do. We still must reform the system. Last summer, together with Senator Cory Booker and Representative Karen Bass, I introduced the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. This bill would hold law enforcement accountable and help build trust between law enforcement and our communities. This bill is part of George Floyd's legacy."

—Vice President Kamala Harris

As I stood alongside the family and friends of George Floyd in Minneapolis on Tuesday, waiting to hear the verdict in Derek Chauvin's murder trial, I felt a combination of hope and dread.

Despite clear and compelling video evidence, despite the unambiguous testimony of experienced law enforcement and medical experts, and despite the exemplary work of Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison's prosecution team, the devastating possibility of an acquittal still loomed.

In the years since the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer gave rise to the Black Lives Matter movement, thousands of Americans have died at the hands of police. Black people are six times more likely to be killed. Only a tiny fraction of these killings have been prosecuted as crimes, and a scant handful—only 44, out of thousands of killings—have resulted in convictions.

Two days after the Chauvin verdict, I stood with the family of Daunte Wright as they faced the unimaginable pain of laying to rest a son, a brother,

a father, and a friend, at just 20 years old. In the space of those two days, police shot and killed 16-year-old Ma'Khia Bryant in Columbus, Ohio and 42-year-old Andrew Brown Jr., in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Details of those shootings still were being investigated as Daunte was laid to rest.

As much as the conviction of Derek Chauvin gave us hope that we have reached a turning point in the movement to end racially-motivated police violence, the deaths of Daunte Wright, Ma'Khia Bryant, Andrew Brown, Jr.—and countless others—show us how much work remains to make that hope a reality.

In testimony before the House Judiciary Committee after the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act was introduced last year, I challenged Congress to decide whether it was facing a "1922 moment" or a "1965 moment." In other words, would the nation squander an opportunity to stand against white supremacist terrorism, as it did in 1922 when the Senate filibustered a House-passed anti-lynching act? Or would it act with courage and integrity, as it did in 1965 with the enactment of the Voting Rights Act?

The conviction of Derek Chauvin has heightened the urgency of that decision.

Will this rare moment of accountability stand as an aberration—a high-water mark—in the ongoing history of racially-motivated police violence? Or will it mark a turning point?

If we expect the conviction of Derek Chauvin to stand as a "1965 moment," Congress must pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. The nation must make an unequivocal declaration that no person under color of law can act unilaterally as cop, judge, jury, and executioner, and eradicate the last legal vestige of lynching.

But federal legislation alone is not a panacea. Public safety must be redefined on a state, county, city, neighborhood, and individual level.

In the coming days, the National Urban League will release a comprehensive framework for criminal justice advocacy that takes a holistic approach to public safety, the restoration of trust between communities and law enforcement, and a path forward for meaningful change.

While themes of our plan are reflected in the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, they also serve as a blueprint for states such as Maryland, which overrode Governor Larry Hogan's veto to enact sweeping reforms that limit police officers' use of force, restrict the use of no-knock warrants, and repeal the nation's first Bill of Rights for law enforcement.

They are a blueprint for cities like Washington D.C., whose Police Reform Panel recently recommended dramatic changes including shrinking the size of the city's Metropolitan Police Department, reducing police presence in schools the use of behavioral health care professionals for certain crises.

Most importantly, they reflect a new way for Americans to think about the protection and preservation of life, dignity, and trust, while also building safer communities.

Derek Chauvin's conviction was a rare and profound moment of accountability for racially-motivated police violence, but we cannot call it justice.

It is not a moment to celebrate. Rather, it is a time for somber remembrance of George Floyd, Daunte Wright, and all the lives those lost to unjustified police violence. It is a time to rededicate ourselves to building a community of trust that keeps all Americans safe.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Still Not Resting

"Another life taken. Another public lynching. Another news story. Another act of recorded Black death . . . [This death] is not an anomaly, but a historical pattern of behavior that binds every American to an unexamined history of our nation."

These lines are from the opening scenes of the "sermonic film" Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, senior pastor

of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago and Co-Pastor in Residence of the Children's Defense Fund's Samuel Dewitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry, released in May 2020, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree: A Requiem for Ahmaud Arbery*. The 22-minute film covers the long legacy of racial injustice and violence in the United States and

how far we still have to go to respond to America's original sins of slavery, racism, and white supremacy. I want to share again Rev. Moss's prophetic sermon which is also a requiem for George Floyd.

Rev. Moss's film's title is from the book by the late Rev. Dr. James Cone, an extraordinary crusader against racial terrorism and other forms of injustice. When Dr. Cone spoke at CDF's Proctor Institute about *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* he said: "This book is my prayer, my invocation to God on behalf of Black people, in the hope that the nearly four centuries of Black suffering will be redemptive for our children and grandchildren, revealing to them the beauty in their tragic path, and also empowering them to continue to fight, to resist the violence of white supremacy."

Witnessing George Floyd's murder was another inflection point in the fight to stop the waves of pain and anger and fear still too common in our justice system. It became a cry not only for George Floyd but for Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tamir Rice,

and generations of Black men, women, and children lynched and murdered without arrests, convictions, or any semblance of justice. And while Black families have often mourned our murders alone, George Floyd's murder provoked a new protest against brutal police treatment of Black men and racial injustice. In the verdict of his police murderer, accountability was affirmed.

I pray the conviction of a law enforcement officer enjoined to protect rather than kill him is not an anomaly and will stop the historical and institutional patterns of too many law enforcement agencies whose mission should be to protect every citizen equally. The long-awaited real United States of America with liberty and justice for all that our enslaved ancestors, grandparents, and parents fought and died for is still struggling to be born. In my generation's mentor Ella Baker's immortal words: "until the killing of Black men, Black mothers' sons, is as important as the killing of white mothers' sons, we who believe in freedom cannot rest."

House Passes DC Statehood, Senate Prospects Dim

By HANNAH FIELDS, RAYONNA BURTON-JERNIGAN and MADISON PEEK
Capital News Service Washington Bureau

House Democrats passed legislation Thursday [April 22] that would grant statehood to the District of Columbia. The 216-208 party-line vote sends the measure to the Senate, where it does not appear to have the necessary 60 votes to pass.

The Washington D.C. Admission Act, symbolically numbered H.R. 51, would create Washington, Douglas Commonwealth, with two senators and a representative in the House, totaling three electoral college votes.

"Statehood for D.C. is about fairness, justice, and ensuring that all Americans have an equal stake in our republic," the House Oversight and Reform Committee's chairwoman, Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-New York, said in her closing remarks. "This is not about politics. It's a fundamental voting and civil rights issue."

The bill was authored and introduced by the District's Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, who has been leading the movement for statehood for decades. The bill has 216 House co-sponsors; an identical piece of legislation passed in the House last year.

Norton, who first introduced the bill 10 years ago with no co-sponsors, has argued continuously that District residents pay more in state and federal taxes than other states but have no voting representation in Congress.

"Congress has both the moral obligation and the constitutional authority to pass H.R. 51," Norton

said. "This country was founded on the principles of no taxation without representation and consent of the governed, but D.C. residents are taxed without representation and cannot consent to the laws under which they, as American citizens, must live."

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Mechanicsville, said statehood was a civil rights issue and a matter of equality of citizenship.

"In no other democratic nation in the world, does the capital city of that nation not have a vote in their parliament," Hoyer said. "Now our 'parliament' is called the Congress."

Republicans called the bill unconstitutional. They also were upset over the implications of an overwhelmingly Democratic city adding two Democratic senators to a closely-divided Senate.

Rep. James Comer, R-Kentucky, said the bill attempted to ignore the Founding Fathers' intent for the capital, adding that statehood would be an unconstitutional, impractical and blatant power grab.

"America's government will become of the Democrats, by the Democrats, and for the Democrats," Comer said. "H.R. 51 is all about the Democrats adding two new progressive U.S. senators to push a radical agenda . . . to reshape America into the socialist utopia they always talk about."

Rep. Pat Fallon, R-Texas, offered "retrocession" as an alternative, giving District residents full federal representation. Putting the District "back into Maryland would give them that added seat and would address that very issue."

"The GOP is acting in good faith because we

know that seat will be a Democratic seat, but it's the right thing to do," Fallon said.

Rep. Mondaire Jones, D-New York, rebutted Republicans' arguments, saying: "There is no good faith argument for disenfranchising over 700,000 people, most of whom are people of color."

The White House voiced its support for District statehood on Tuesday, issuing a policy statement saying that it "will make our Union stronger and more just" and calling on Congress to give the residents of the nation's capital "long overdue full representation in Congress."

In the Senate, Democrats and Republicans are divided 50-50, with Vice President Kamala Harris holding a tie-breaking vote. The problem for District statehood, as it is for many other matters before the Senate, is that it would require 60 votes to end an expected filibuster by GOP opponents.

No Republican senator so far has embraced District statehood. And some Senate Democrats have not said how they would vote on the idea.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-New York, is expected to press for a vote on District statehood. After the House vote, he tweeted: "This is about democracy. It's about self-government. It's about voting rights. I was proud to re-introduce this bill in the Senate, and we are working to make #DCStatehood a reality."

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Delaware, and the chief statehood sponsor in the Senate, has asked former Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman to help lobby unde-

ing in Indianapolis, Atlanta, and Boulder, Colorado.

"The concerns run the gamut of all the things that we are trying to get a hold of in this world of guns that we're living in, we're really alarmed by those numbers," Herren said.

Connecting to mental health, one of the main concerns for Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence with an increase in gun ownership is the potential ramifications it could have on children.

Earlier this legislative session, the organ-

ization advocated for a bill called Jaelynn's Law that would make it more difficult for unsupervised minors to access a firearm, but it didn't pass.

"When we're talking about an increase in gun purchases, we're talking about an increase in access to those horrific possibilities," Banach told Capital News Service.

"We're talking about an increase in the likelihood of suicidality, an increase in the likelihood of domestic violence escalating to homicide, an increase of a child unintentionally getting a gun," she added.

Gun Applications from AI

"We're looking at a very dangerous situation from a mental health standpoint, we're also looking at potential spikes in gun violence numbers from domestic violence situations or urban violence situations," Karen Herren, director of legislative affairs for Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence, told Capital News Service.

As the country has opened up more in recent weeks with vaccination rates on the rise, mass shootings have also increased, includ-

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Senior from A1

now. But they are glad The Parc will be part of the greater community at The Sky Bridge at Town Center in case their situation were to change.

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The number of people 65 and above in Prince George's County has risen by more than 50 percent in the past decade. The figure is expected to increase over 30 percent between now and 2030, when the demographic will represent 17.5 percent of the county's population. Pairing an active adult community with senior living

More information, including floor plans, on The Arch and The Parc is available by appointment at The Sky Bridge at Town Center leasing gallery, 2200 Petrie Lane, Suite 534, Lanham, Maryland or by phone at 240-545-8080.

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Free Cinco De Mayo Lyft Rides Offered to Prevent Drunk Driving

More than a third of U.S. highway deaths during Cinco De Mayo involve drunk drivers

By PRESS OFFICER WRAP

WASHINGTON (April 27, 2021)—While stating unequivocally that "we're all safer at home" this Cinco de Mayo during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, a local nonprofit organization today announced that—as a "necessary safety net" to next month's high-risk, high-alcohol consumption period—free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area on Cinco de Mayo (May 5).

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2021 Cinco de Mayo SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 (Cinco de Mayo) and operate until 2 a.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2021 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

During SoberRide's hours of operation this Cinco de Mayo, area resident's age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter a SoberRide® code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. The Cinco de Mayo SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on May 5 on www.SoberRide.com.

Over a-third of U.S. traffic fatalities during Cinco de Mayo involve drunk drivers (39%, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2015-2019).*

During the 2019 Cinco de Mayo period (COVID-19 prevented last year's offering), nearly 800 (792) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide® program

rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day, Halloween and the winter holidays.

SoberRide® is offered throughout Lyft's Washington D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William.

Sponsors of WRAP's 2021 Cinco de Mayo SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, Anheuser-Busch, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Kendall-Jackson, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. In addition, WRAP's 2021 Public Partner SoberRide® Sponsors include the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, Maryland Highway Safety Office/Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area.

*Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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